

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 18, 2003

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 5**

**Introduced by Senators Sher and Burton**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Kuehl)**

January 30, 2003

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as amended, Sher. Giant Sequoia National Monument.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take necessary action to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting commercial logging *and encouraging noncommercial and environmentally appropriate management activities, including removal of small trees and brush that reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect rural communities, and restore the Giant Sequoia ecosystem in all parts of the monument, as set forth in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the monument.*

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument was  
2 established on April 15, 2000, by a Presidential Proclamation duly  
3 executed under the Antiquities Act; and

4 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is a  
5 diverse landscape containing groves of majestic giant sequoia, the  
6 largest trees in the world and the sentinel trees of the Sierra  
7 Nevada; and

8 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is home to  
9 numerous species of wildlife including Pacific fisher, black bear,

1 California spotted owl, mountain lions, peregrine falcons, lion,  
2 peregrine falcon, and great grey owl, and a number of rare  
3 amphibians; and

4 WHEREAS, Giant sequoias are the only known trees large  
5 enough to provide nesting habitat for the endangered California  
6 condor and remain available as potential habitat for this species;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have  
9 lived, and rank among the world's longest lived trees, reaching  
10 ages greater than 3,200 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Native Americans have lived for more than 8,000  
12 years in the Sierra, with archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and  
13 pictographs evident within the monument; and

14 WHEREAS, The Presidential Proclamation of April 15, 2000,  
15 established a monument boundary of 327,769 acres to be managed  
16 by the United States Forest Service for the purposes of protecting  
17 the whole of the giant sequoia ecosystem; and

18 WHEREAS, The proclamation prohibited commercial timber  
19 harvesting within the monument and, except for personal  
20 firewood, limited the removal of trees to ecological restoration and  
21 maintenance of public safety; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has ignored this  
23 direction in preparing a management plan for the Giant Sequoia  
24 National Monument; and

25 WHEREAS, Nothing in the proclamation diminishes the  
26 jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and  
27 wildlife; and

28 ~~WHEREAS, The environmental consequences of logging in the~~  
29 ~~monument far outweigh the benefits of timber production; and~~

30 *WHEREAS, The adverse environmental consequences of the*  
31 *United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's*  
32 *proposed draft environmental impact statement, if adopted, far*  
33 *outweigh the protections of the giant sequoia ecosystem provided*  
34 *in the existing Sierra Framework and the Presidential*  
35 *Proclamation; and*

36 WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to protect the giant  
37 sequoia ecosystem as required by Presidential Proclamation; now,  
38 therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*  
40 *jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California*

1 memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action  
2 to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting  
3 commercial logging in all parts of the monument *and encouraging*  
4 *noncommercial and environmentally appropriate management*  
5 *activities, including the removal of small trees and brush that*  
6 *reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect rural communities, and*  
7 *restore the giant sequoia ecosystem*, as set forth in the Presidential  
8 Proclamation establishing the monument; and be it further  
9 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
10 this resolution to the President of the United States, to all Members  
11 of the Congress of the United States, and to the *United States*  
12 Secretary of Agriculture.

13  
14 CORRECTIONS

15 Text — Page 2.